

[illegible]

An intelligent-networked telecommunication system for audio playing of Electronic Mail (“E-Mail”) messages uses the Service Control Point (SCP) of the Intelligent Network (IN) to route e-mail messages directed to subscribing customers to the customer’s telephone number when the e-mail header matches the limitations stored in the subscribing customer’s profile. The text of the e-mail message is converted to an audio message which can either be heard by the customer when a call is answered, or stored on an answering machine or in a voice mailbox. The present-inventive Notifying and Hearing Selective E-Mails (NHSE) system and method also includes features such as the subscribing customer being able to specify that audio e-mail messages will be truncated to a specified length, sending a special Caller ID message identifying the e-mail sender and subject of the message when the customer also has Caller ID service, and preceding the transmission of the audio e-mail message with a distinctive ringing pattern, to allow a subscribing customer the option of going “off-hook” to listen to the message, or allow the call to go directly to voice mail or an answering machine.